

WEATHER FORECASTS.

SOME CURIOUS OLD-TIME METEOROLOGICAL PREDICTIONS.

A Series of Rules in Which Spiders, Gnats, Storms, Cranes, Horses, Sheep and Plants are Made to do Service as Weather Prophets.

Long before a national weather bureau telegraphed all over the country its predictions as to whether tomorrow would be stormy, showery, cloudy or fine, or a Wiggins began to announce—never to come—earthquakes which were to shake a continent, or cyclones and hurricanes which were to blow away cities, households were governed by a set of rules in the battles of the elements. These rules are to be found in handbooks published as late as half a century ago, and some of them are very curious. They number nearly 300, some relating to the movements of clouds and winds, others to the appearance of the sun and moon, and others to the actions of various animals, including insects and birds, and by them the ancient Wiggins foretold when a storm was at hand. Some of the curious rules, many of which are still referred to in the conversation of everyday life, were as follows:

If spiders, in spinning their webs, make the termination filaments long, we may, in proportion to their length, conclude that the weather will be severe and continue so for ten or twelve days.

If there are no falling stars to be seen on a bright summer's evening, you may look for fine weather.

Spiders generally alter their web once in 24 hours. If they do not alter it, it is the evening there will be a fine night; if they alter their web in the morning, expect a fine day; if they work during rain, expect fine weather; if the more active and busy the spider is the finer will be the weather.

If many gnats are seen in spring, expect a fine autumn; if gnats fly in compact bodies in the looms of the setting sun, there will be fine weather.

If spiders' webs fly in the autumn with a south wind, expect an east wind and fine weather.

If bats flutter and beetles fly about there will be a fine morning.

If a swarm of bees fly about there will be a fine day.

If storms and cranes fly high and steady there will be fine weather.

If the garden spiders break and destroy their webs and creep away, expect rain or showery weather.

If there be many falling stars on a clear evening in the summer, there will be thunder.

If the stars above 45 deg., especially the North star, flicker strongly and appear closer than usual, there will be rain.

A rainbow in the morning is the shepherd's warning.

If old and rheumatic people complain of their joints and limbs once broken at the place of their union, there will be foul or wet weather.

If the smoke from chimneys blows down, or if soot takes fire and is blown into the street, or falls down the chimney into the grate, expect rain.

If ditches and drains smell stronger than usual, expect rain; and when tobacco smoke seems denser and more powerful expect wet weather.

If the marigolds continue shut after 7 o'clock in the evening, expect rain.

If the convolvulus and chickweed close, there will be rain.

If sheep, rams and goats spring about in the meadows and fight more than usual, expect rain.

If asses shake their ears, bray and rub against walls and trees, expect rain.

If cattle leave off feeding and chase each other in their pastures, it will rain.

If cats lick their bodies and wash their faces, it will rain.

If foxes and dogs howl and bark more than usual, it dogs grow sleepy and dull, rain.

If swine be restless and grunt loudly, if they squeak and jerk up their heads, there will be much wind. From this rule spring the proverb: "Pigs can see much wind."

If moles cast up hills, rain.

If horses stretch out their necks and sniff the air and assemble in the corner of a field with their heads to leeward, rain.

If rats and mice be restless it will rain.

If peacocks and guinea fowls scream and turkeys gobble, and if quails make more noise than usual, there will be rain.

If sea birds fly toward land and land birds toward the sea, there will be rain.

If the cock crows more than usual and earlier, expect rain.

If swallows fly lower than usual, expect rain.

If the crows make a great deal of noise and fly round and round, expect rain.

If water fowl scream more than usual and plunge into the water, expect rain.

If birds in general pick their feathers, wash themselves and fly to their nests, it will rain.

If cranes place their bills under wings, rain.

If bees remain in their hives or fly but a short distance from them, rain.

If fish bite more readily and gambol near the surface of streams and ponds, rain.

If gnats, flies, etc., bite sharper than usual, expect rain.

If worms creep out of the ground in great numbers, expect rain.

If frogs and toads sing more than usual, expect rain.

If the crickets sing louder than usual, it will rain.

If the owls screech, death is near and there will be rain.

If the sea anemone shut, and according to the extent it opens, so will the weather be fine or less so.

If porpoises and whales sport about ships, expect a hurricane.

If the trefoil contract its leaves, expect thunder and heavy rain.

If the mole digs his hole two feet and a half deep, expect a very severe winter; if two feet deep, not so severe; if one foot deep, a mild winter.

If robins approach nearer houses than usual, expect frost; if the crow crack much the frost will continue.

If the leaves of the trees move without any perceptible wind, rain may be expected.—Brooklyn Citizen.

Carrying Too Much Debt.

"No, sir! I did not die of pneumonia; he died of bill brokers, sir. He projected an unwise improvement of a piece of real estate, made loans, covered himself with bonds and mortgages, and finally incurred a street debt of \$2,000, which rapidly rolled up to \$5,000 and crushed the life out of him. He borrowed money on call, got paper discounted, and he worked, lived and died for the bill brokers. Yes, sir, he died of a street debt, upon which he expended his strength every week, throwing it ahead from one day to seven."—Dry Goods Chronicle.

A clergyman exhorted his congregation to "vote as you pray," and later on he advised them to "pray often."

What the Duke of Wellington Did.

The story is one which Sir Francis learned from his father, to whom Wellington told it himself in his own characteristic language, when the elder Doyle was dining at Aspley house.

"After the battle of Talavera I wanted the Spanish force to make a movement, and called upon Cuesta to take the necessary step, but he demurred. He said, by way of answer, 'For the honor of the Spanish crown I cannot attend to the directions of the British general, unless that British general go upon his knees and entreat me to follow his advice.' 'Now, I wanted the thing done, while as to going down upon my knees I did not care a twopenny for it, so down I plumped.'—Lancet Times.

The Thought of Friendliness.

To strive to forget enemies, or to throw out of them only friendly thought, is as much an act of self-protection as it is to put up your hands to ward off a physical blow. The persistent thought of friendliness turns aside thought of ill-will and renders it harmless.—Pren-tice Mulford in "White Cross Library."

As Well as at Home.

Mr. Cyrus W. Field finds that when on the Pacific coast or in London he can direct his business affairs almost as well as when he is at home. "That is what the telegraph has done. The only place where a man is cut off from his business in these days is an ocean steamer on a voyage."—Exchange.

Red Shades and Pink Newspapers.

Red lamp shades are a monstrosity. Dr. Forbes Winslow gives facts to show how injurious to the eyes are the red and yellow rays of the ordinary oil lamps and gas, and shows that a certain amount of blue in the lamp shades will prevent their bad effects. Pink and buff-toned paper for newspapers are a great mistake. The best paper for the eyes is that which is nearly white, with a slight bluish or lilac tint.—Herald of Health.

Oxalic Acid in Tomatoes.

The principal acid of the tomato is malic; but there is also a trace of oxalic acid which would be dangerous if it existed in large quantities. The oxalic acid acts on the tin in the cans and produces a dangerous compound. The malic acid does not act so strongly. If glass is used there can be no danger, and the flavor of the fruit will be much better retained.—Exchange.

A Trap for Sparrows.

A Lewiston, Me., man has fixed in his window a wire bird trap shaped like a half cylinder and delicately hung on its center. When a bird alights on the trap his own weight swings it downward and he is whirled inside of the window into another cage there. Literally scattered crumbs call sparrows to the trap, and the Lewiston man says that they are as good eating as red birds.—New York Times.

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Dated Oct. 11, 1886.

HENRY E. RICHARDS.

Notice of Settlement.

NOTICE is hereby given that the Accounts of the Subscribed, Guardian of Ezra G. Tolman, a minor, will be audited and voted by the Surrogate and recorded for settlement in the Orphan's Court of the County of Essex, on Monday, the twentieth day of December next.

Dated Oct. 11, 1886.

HENRY E. RICHARDS.

Notice of Settlement.

NOTICE is hereby given that the Accounts of the Subscribed, Administrator of Mary Crane, deceased, will be audited and voted by the Surrogate and recorded for settlement in the Orphan's Court of the County of Essex, on Monday, the twentieth day of January next.

Dated Nov. 4, 1886.

JAMES C. BEACH.

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SHERIFF'S SALE.—Essex County Circuit Court

vs. Samuel H. Baxter, Benjamin W. Wilson and

George W. Baxter, Executors, vs. Samuel H. Baxter,

deceased, vs. James B. Davis and Mary A. Davis.

By virtue of the above stated writ of fieri facias

to me directed, I shall expose for sale by public

venue, at the Court House in Newark, on Tuesday,